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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS INITIATES NEW MONTHLY BULLETIN SERVICE ON SHRIMP LANDINGS

A new monthly bulletin on shrimp—America's No. 1 fishery item measured in terms of value at the boat—is being issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today.

The first issue, now available, contains data on the volume and value of domestic landings of shrimp in the Gulf States in January 1956. Information relative to shrimp landings in the South Atlantic States will be included in the bulletin as soon as practicable, Service officials report.

The bulletin, Shrimp Landings, is being issued in cooperation with the Florida State Board of Conservation and the University of Miami Marine Laboratory, the Alabama Department of Conservation, the Mississippi Seafood Commission, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Texas Game and Fish Commission.

Between 7,000 and 8,000 American boats of various capacities are engaged in shrimping. About 5,000 of these operate in the Gulf of Mexico. In recent years the annual catch in the United States and Alaska has been about 250,000,000 pounds, "heads on" weight. The value has approximated \$70,000,000 at the boats.

According to Fish and Wildlife Service officials, shrimping activity in the Gulf of Mexico varies with the season and with the type of shrimp. Brown, pink and white shrimp and sea bobs, small shrimp usually canned or dried, are taken commercially in the Gulf. During the winter months, most of the activity is for pink shrimp landed in Florida and for brown shrimp landed in Texas. Heavy shrimp landings begin in Alabama in June, in Mississippi in July and in Louisiana in August. In all instances, the shrimping continues into the fall. In Texas, shrimping is largely a fall activity.

The new report shows that in January 1956, a total of 5,294,944 pounds of shrimp, weighed "heads off," was landed in the various Gulf ports. The value is placed at \$3,253,216. On the basis of "heads on" weight, the catch was 8,985,689 pounds.

Nearly half of the January landings, or 2,616,395 pounds, were pink shrimp landed on Florida's west coast. About half of these were taken off Sanibel and Tortugas. Brown shrimp, most of them taken off the Mexican coast and landed in Texas, totaled 1,363,833 pounds. Louisiana showed the highest white shrimp landings with 480,990 pounds. Louisiana also reported 246,185 pounds of brown shrimp and 261,119 pounds of sea bobs. Landings of white and brown shrimp in Alabama totaled 81,776 pounds and in Mississippi 140,540 pounds.

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